

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NAPLES 00072 131030Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
-----005243 131137Z /20
R 121432Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL NAPLES
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5853

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAPLES 0072

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: SCHOOL ELECTIONS

REF: ROME 21287

SUMMARY: ELECTIONS FOR SCHOLASTIC COUNCILS IN THIS AREA INDICATED AN OVERWHELMING CATHOLIC VOTE AMONG PARENTS, TEACHER PREFERENCES FOR THE CATHOLIC-INSPIRED CISL OVER OTHER UNIONS AND A SURPRISING CATHOLIC LIST VOTE AMONG STUDENTS. MOST CONSULATE CONTACTS CONSIDER THE ELECTIONS TO HAVE BEEN A DEFEAT OF SORTS FOR THE PCI SINCE LEFTIST "UNITED LISTS" DID LESS WELL THAN EXPECTED. THE STRONG CATHOLIC SHOWING IS NOT CONSIDERED A DIRECT DC VICTORY NOR NECESSARILY TRANSFERABLE INTO POLITICAL ELECTION VOTES BUT IS NEVERTHELESS ENCOURAGING AND SHOULD BE USEFUL IN ANY CONSIDERATION

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG6752 C O N F I D E N T I A L
OF EARLY ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DATA ON THE DECEMBER 11 AND 12 ELECTIONS FOR SCHOLASTIC COUNCILS ARE APPARENTLY STILL CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL. WE DO NOT HAVE DATA FOR THE SOUTH GENERALLY BUT ARE TOLD BY CHURCH,DC AND LAY PARTY OFFICIALS THAT THE CATHOLIC LISTS DID WELL JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE WHILE LEFTIST SO-CALLED "UNITED LISTS" FAIRED LESS WELL THAN EXPECTED AND DOWNRIGHT POORLY IN SOME AREAS. NAPLES PROVINCE IS ONE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NAPLES 00072 131030Z

OF THOSE AREAS. UNOFFICIAL DATA FOR THE PROVINCE INDICATES AN OVERWHELMING CATHOLIC VOTE AMONG PARENTS, TEACHER PREFERENCES FOR THE CATHOLIC-INSPIRED UNION CISL OVER THE OTHER TWO CONFEDERATIONS (AS WELL AS INDEPENDENT UNIONS) AND A SURPRISING CATHOLIC STRENGTH AMONG STUDENTS.

2. IN THE VOTE BY PARENTS FOR THE NAPLES PROVINCE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL THE CATHOLIC LIST GARNERED ABOUT 133,000 VOTES OUT OF

366,000 BALLOTS CAST OR 38 OF THE TOTAL. THE LEFTIST "UNITED LIST" POLLED 53,000 VOTES OR 14.5 OF THE TOTAL WHILE RIGHTIST LISTS ATTRACTED ONLY 16,000 VOTES OR 4.4 . LEFTIST OBSERVERS EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESULT BECAUSE OF LOW PARENTAL PARTICIPATION (ONLY 31 OF THOSE ELIGIBLE) IN ELECTIONS AND THE LARGE NUMBER OF INVALIDATED OR BLANK BALLOTS (31).

PAGE 03 RUFRSGG6752 C O N F I D E N T I A L

OTHERS, HOWEVER, POINT TO THE GENERALLY SUPERIOR ORGANIZATION OF LEFTIST GROUPS AND TELL US THAT LOW TURNOUT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE LEFT. FURTHERMORE MANY BLANK BALLOTS RESULTED FROM CERTAIN SCHOOLS WHERE ONLY THE LEFTIST "UNITED LIST" WAS PRESENT. THEREFORE THE CATHOLIC SHOWING CAN BE CONSIDERED ALL THE MORE IMPRESSIVE.

3. IN THEIR VOTE FOR SCHOLASTIC DISTRICT COUNCILS WITHIN NAPLES PROVINCE, TEACHERS INDICATED A SURPRISING PREFERENCE (63) FOR THE THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS OVER "INDEPENDENT UNIONS" WHICH WERE ALREADY STRONG AND CONSIDERED TO BE GROWING AT CONFEDERAL UNION EXPENSE. FEW VOTES WERE CAST FOR THE NEO-FASCIST CISNAL UNION. MORE TO THE POINT OF CATHOLIC SATISFACTION WITH SCHOOL ELECTIONS AND ASSUMED PCI DISTRESS WAS STRONG CISL VOTE TOTAL (THE CONFEDERAL UNIONS PUT UP SEPARATE LISTS). THE CATHOLIC-INSPIRED CISL POLLED 9,500 OF 31,300 VALID VOTES OR 30 WHILE THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED CGIL WON 7,600 OR 24.3 AND THE UIL (WITH CGIL HELP IN FOUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NAPLES 00072 131030Z

DISTRICTS) MANAGED TO ATTRACT 1,500 OR 4.7). THE IMPRESSIVE CISL PERFORMANCE APPEARS CLEARLY LINKED TO ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CATHOLIC LIST. OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THE CISL AND OVERALL CONFEDERAL TOTAL WOULD HAVE BEEN LOWER HAD THERE BEEN A UNITARY LIST.

PAGE 04 RUFRSGG6752 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TURNOUT AMONG TEACHERS WAS ABOUT 80 , THUS ELICITING LESS CONJECTURE ABOUT SECRET PROCLIVITIES OF NON-VOTERS. ACCORDING TO DATA COLLECTED BY THE CGIL, THE TEACHERS' VOTE FOR THE SCHOLASTIC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AGAIN GAVE CISL THE EDGE--23.5 TO THE CGIL'S 20.5 AND THE UIL'S 10 . VARIOUS OTHER UNIONS COLLECTED THE REST OF VALID VOTES.

4. IN STUDENT ELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NAPLES PROVINCE THE LEFTIST "UNITED LISTS" POLLED 51 OF THE VOTE (ACCORDING TO LEFTIST PUBLICATION "LA VOCE DELLA CAMPANIA") TO THE CATHOLIC LISTS 31 OF THE VOTE. THE SO-CALLED "FASCIST" LIST APPEALED TO 8 OF STUDENTS WHILE THE "FAR LEFT" ATTRACTED ONLY 4.9 . "LA VOCE" NOTES THAT THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS STILL SUPPORT UNITED LISTS "IN SPITE OF THE ABSTENTION OF MANY LEFTISTS GROUPS AND THE INCREASE OF YOUTHS BACKING CATHOLIC LISTS".

5. CONCERNING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED REFTTEL, CONSULATE CONTACTS

FROM "DEMOCRATIC ARC" PARTIES (SAVE THE PCI) AS WELL AS CONTACTS FROM OSTENSIBLY APOLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS GENERALLY CONSIDER THE ELECTIONS A DEFEAT FOR THE PCI. A DEFEAT BECAUSE THE HIGHLY TOUTED MARXIST (PRIMARILY PCI) ABILITY TO ORGANIZE AND MOBILIZE FAILED IN A CONTEST WITH DISPARATE AND OFTEN COMPETING ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING CATHOLIC ACTION, ACLI, AND EVEN COMMUNION AND LIBERATION. THE SIMPLE

PAGE 05 RUFRSGG6752 C O N F I D E N T I A L

CATHOLIC PREFERENCE OF PARENTS AND THE INCREASE IN CATHOLIC STUDENT VOTE (EVEN THOUGH CATHOLIC STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS ARE WEAK IN COMPARISON WITH LEFTIST GROUPS) MUST BE CAUSE FOR CONCERN AMONG THE LEFT. A PCI SCHOOL OFFICIAL CITED THE NATIONAL FAILURE TO REALIZE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 NAPLES 00072 131030Z

LONG-AWAITED SCHOOL REFORM AS AN ELEMENT WORKING AGAINST THE LEFT, AND OTHERS POINT TO A LONG TRADITION OF CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLS AS A FACTOR PROVIDING THE ADVANTAGE FOR CATHOLIC LISTS. AS IF TO UNDERLINE AN AT LEAST TEMPORARY PCI DISENCHANTMENT WITH EXTENDING DEMOCRACY TO THE SCHOOLS, A NAPLES DC OFFICIAL TOLD CONOFF THAT THE PCI HAS REVERSED ITS POLICY ON SCHOOLS, AND NOW CALLS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT POWERS TO BE ASSUMED BY CITY GOVERNMENT.

6. CAN THE DC EXPLOIT THE APPARENT VICTORY? ACCORDING TO CAMPANIA REGIONAL DC OFFICIALS THE VICTORY IS LARGELY DUE TO CHURCH RELATED ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN THE PARTY. THE DC ITSELF CANNOT CLAIM VICTORY AND THE SCHOOL ELECTION CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AN ELECTORAL TEST COMPARABLE TO LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS. YET SOME DC OFFICIALS SURMISE THAT THE PCI END-OF-YEAR DEMAND FOR ENTRY INTO THE CAMPANIA GIUNTA (THUS FORCING THE CURRENT REGIONAL CRISIS) AND FOR A NATIONAL "GOVERNMENT OF EMERGENCY" ARE LINKED TO A COMMUNIST FEAR THAT THE MID-TERM ELECTORAL TREND APPEARS UNFAVORABLE.

PAGE 06 RUFRSGG6752 C O N F I D E N T I A L

7. IN SUM IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE PCI HAD SCHOOL ELECTIONS NOT TAKEN PLACE. THAT IS A DEFEAT OF SORTS EVEN THOUGH MARXISTS DO NOT SUFFER DEFEATS BUT MERELY EXPERIENCE A PAUSE IN HISTORY'S INEXORABLE MARCH. THE DC WINS INsofar AS CONFIRMATION OF CATHOLIC INSPIRATION AMONG PARENTS, TEACHERS AND MANY STUDENTS HELPS THE DC. THE PARTY PROBABLY CANNOT EXPLOIT THE VOTE IN AN ORGANIZATIONAL SENSE NOR COULD RENEWED POLITICAL COORDINATION AMONG DISCRETE CATHOLIC ACTION GROUPS BE EXPECTED. SCHOOL ELECTIONS SHOULD HOWEVER BE USEFUL TO THE DC IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF RECOURSE TO AND TIMING OF EARLY ELECTIONS. DEGAN.

GDS 84

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCHOOLS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAPLES00072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780020-0220
Format: TEL
From: NAPLES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780172/aaaaciqr.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 09348be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ROME 21287
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3788245
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHOOL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, IT
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/09348be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014